

## **READ WITH ME**

*When you read with your child, you are not only helping her develop good language skills, you are also building a strong, close relationship with her as you encourage her lifelong love of reading.*

## **IF YOUR TODDLER COULD TALK:**

One of my favorite times with you is when we read books together. It feels so cozy and warm to snuggle up with you. I like it best when you show me a few books and then let me pick which one I want. You may wonder why I pick the same book day after day. But it makes me feel so smart when I know what the book is about and can recognize the pictures. I love seeing pictures of kids doing things I do, or pictures of things I see in my world — like the cat who lives next door. Don't worry if I keep turning back to the same page, or if I just flip quickly through the book in seconds flat! There are so many ways to enjoy books. The point is, I'm having fun; and when I'm having fun, I'm learning.



## **12-15 Months**

## **WHAT YOUR TODDLER IS LEARNING:**

Children come to love reading, not just because they find books interesting, but because it is a joyful, shared experience with you. They make the connection between reading and being close to you, and that connection makes them want to read more. The more they read, the more likely they are to pick up language and communication skills, as well as an understanding of the world around them. There is no “right” way to read with your baby. The only criteria is to make sure she is engaged and having fun. She may want to read the same books over and over again; or she may whiz through a book with lightning speed. Let her be in control of selecting what to read and turning the pages and she'll have a wonderful time.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Make time for reading every day.
- Don't feel you have to read every word in the book. Some of the best books for young children are those with only pictures and no words. You can make up the story. And as your child grows and her imagination develops, she can make up her own story.
- Go to your local library and let her explore. See what books she seems to like. Take her to story time for kids her age. As her interest in being with other children grows, she'll love this group activity.